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76. The computer program product of claim 26, wherein:  
each of the sources has a associated set of source properties describing the source; and  
the instructions operable to cause a programmable processor to define the sources include  
instructions operable to cause a programmable processor to receive for each of the sources a set  
of values for one or more of the source properties associated with the source.

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77. The computer program product of claim 54, wherein:  
at least one of the source properties is selected from the group consisting of molecular  
weight, equivalents, density and concentration.

78. The computer program product of claim 54, wherein:  
at least one of the course properties is a type describing a class of chemicals to be used in  
generating the library design.

79. A computer-implemented method for generating a library design for a combinatorial  
library of materials, a combinatorial library being a collection of two or more members that  
contain some variance in chemical composition, chemical amount, reaction conditions, and/or  
processing conditions, a member being a single position in a library, the library design being  
electronic data representing one or more components distributed across a conceptual  
arrangement of cells representing a combinatorial library, the cells corresponding to members of  
the combinatorial library and/or locations on a physical substrate, the method comprising:

defining a set of one or more parameters to be used in preparing the combinatorial  
library, each parameter being electronic data being electronic data corresponding to a process  
condition to be applied to one or more cells of the arrangement representing the combinatorial  
library;

defining one or more parameter values for each of the set of parameters, the parameter  
values representing an amount of the corresponding process condition to be applied to one or  
more of the cells of the arrangement, such that the parameter values for at least one of the set of  
parameters vary between a minimum amount and a maximum amount; and

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generating a data file defining the library design, the data file comprising electronic data representing the one or more components distributed across the conceptual arrangement of cells representing the combinatorial library, the parameters and the parameter values.

80. The method of claim 79, wherein the parameter values for at least one of the parameters are defined to vary over time and/or across two or more cells in the arrangement.

81. The method of claim 79, wherein the parameter values for at least one of the parameters vary according to a gradient selected from the group consisting of linear, logarithmic, exponential, polynomial and geometric progression.

A1 82. The method claim 79, wherein the parameter values for at least one of the parameters correspond to amounts of a process condition selected from the group consisting of temperature, pressure, time, flow rate and stirring speed.

83. The method claim 79, further comprising:  
generating a graphical representation of the library design, the graphical representation describing parameter values assigned to one or more of the cells in the arrangement for one or more of the parameters.

84. The method claim 79, further comprising:  
using the data file to cause an automated apparatus to prepare the combinatorial library according to the library design.

85. A computer program product on a computer-readable medium for generating a library design for a combinatorial library of materials, a combinatorial library being a collection of two or more members that contain some variance in chemical composition, chemical amount, reaction conditions, and/or processing conditions, a member being a single position in a library, the library design being electronic data representing one or more components distributed across a conceptual arrangement of cells representing a combinatorial library, the cells corresponding to members of the combinatorial library and/or locations on a physical substrate, the product

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comprising instructions operable to cause a programmable processor to:

define a set of one or more parameters to be used in preparing the combinatorial library, each parameter being electronic data corresponding to a process condition to be applied to one or more cells of the arrangement representing the combinatorial library;

define one or more parameter values for each of the set of parameters, the parameter values representing an amount of the corresponding process condition to be applied to one or more of the cells of the arrangement, such that the parameter values for at least one of the set of parameters vary between a minimum amount and a maximum amount; and

generate a data file defining the library design, the data file comprising electronic data representing the one or more components distributed across the conceptual arrangement of cells representing the combinatorial library, the parameters and the parameter values.

A1 86. The computer program product of claim 85, wherein the parameter values for at least one of the parameters are defined to vary over time and/or across two or more cells in the arrangement.

87. The computer program product claim 85, wherein the parameter values for at least one of the parameters vary according to a gradient selected from the group consisting of linear, logarithmic, exponential, polynomial and geometric progression.

88. The computer program product of claim 85, wherein the parameter values for at least one of the parameters correspond to amounts of a process condition selected from the group consisting of temperature, pressure, time, flow rate and stirring speed.

89. The computer program product of claim 85, further comprising instructions operable to cause a programmable processor to:

generate a graphical representation of the library design, the graphical representation describing parameter values assigned to one or more of the cells in the arrangement for one or more of the parameters.

90. The computer program product of claim 85, further comprising instructions operable to

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